Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NEA-10 SCA-01 TRSE-00 /049 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA/FRONDON:JH APPROVED BY ARA:WPSTEDMAN ARA/P:GBROWN (DRAFT) ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

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R 131135Z JUL 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 162528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 157856

- 1. RICHARD MAASS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, HAS EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH STATE-MENTS BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CONCERNING ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA. HE BELIEVES AND DEPARTMENT CONCURS THAT NO FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR NOW OVER INCIDENT WHICH LED TO DEPARTURE OF COMMITTEE'S REPRESENTATIVE IN BUENOS AIRES, JACOBO KOVADLOFF, AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF OFFICE. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT GOA IS PROTECTING COMMITTEE OFFICES IN BUENOS AIRES AND THAT EMBASSY WILL MONITOR SUCH PROTECTION.
- 2. GUIDANCE USED BY DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE: WITH RESPECT TO ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA, IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT VIDELA OR HIS GOVERNMENT. WE NOTE THAT MR. KOVADLOFF MET YESTERDAY WITH THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, WHICH REFLECTS THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THIS INCIDENT.

NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THE THREATS AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPRESENTATIVE IN BUENOS AIRES WERE REAL AND MAY HAVE REQUIRED THE COMPLICITY OF IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES. OUR CHARGE IN BUENOS AIRES HAS BROUGHT THIS PROBLEM TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY BECAUSE MR. KOVADLOFF REPRESENTS A VERY RESPECTED AMERICAN ORGANIZATION, AND BECAUSE HE WAS THREATENED BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, RICHARD MAASS, AND MR. KOVADLOFF MET WEDNESDAY WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, WILLIAM STEDMAN, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Subject: AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND ARGENTINA

TAGS: SHUM, AR, US, AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, (KAVADLOFF, JACOBO)

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